

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00638 141249Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EA-10
H-01 /066 W
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R 141140Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6675
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TANGS: PINT UR
SUBJECT: GROMYKO ON BREZHNEV'S HEALTH

1. DURING HIS CALL ON GROMYKO JANUARY 13, SENATOR STEVENSON TOLD GROMYKO THAT HE HOPED BREZHNEV IS IN GOOD HEALTH. CLEARLY PRIMED FOR COMMENT, GROMYKO RESPONDED THAT BREZHNEV IS FINE AND IS "RESTING". HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT BREZHNEV DID CATCH COLD (PROSTUDILYSA) A FEW WEEKS BACK. MANY HAD THE FLU (GRIPP) IN MOSCOW, HE SAID, AND BREZHNEV HAD COME DOWN WITH IT. ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV HAS NOW RECOVERED, HIS DOCTORS HAVE ADVISED HIM TO REST FOR A FEW DAYS.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT GROMYKO TOLD THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER EARLIER THIS WEEK(MOSCOW 458) AND THEREFORE SEEMS TO BE THE OFFICIAL PRIVATE EXPLANATION FOR BREZHNEV'S ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC VIEW (EXCEPT FOR THE JANUARY 5 AWARDS CEREMONY) OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.
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MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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